



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 05/05/2009

Arlington Historical Commission
 Minutes for the Meeting of
 Tuesday, 5 May 2009
 Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:45 p.m.

Call to Order: Richard Duffy, Co-Chairman, presiding, with Co-Chair JoAnn Robinson. Commissioners Patrick Guthrie, Pamela Meister, Dianne Schaefer, Eric Stange, Associate Commissioner, Alex Frisch.

Review of April 2009 Minutes: Minutes accepted.

Communications Received:

- Call from Jonathan Nyberg regarding demolition of 36 Bellevue Road. Not on Inventory. Fax authorizing demolition sent to Building Department.
- Call regarding 18 Wellington Street referred to Historic Districts Commission.
- Call from Gary Slebodnick regarding addition to 53 Brattle Street (see Informal Hearing at 8:30pm below).
- Calls regarding Crosby School and Parmenter School. The Parmenter is located in the Pleasant Street Historic District.
- Call from Barry Munroe, contractor regarding window replacement at 34 Gray Street. Mr. Duffy visited the site with Mr. Munroe and determined that the changes did not exceed 25 % of any one applicable elevation. Authorization for building permit was sent to Building Department.

Reports of other Town Boards and Historical Organizations:

- Arlington Preservation Fund (Frisch) – Nothing to report.
- Zoning By-Law Review Committee (Stange) – Nothing to report.
- Arlington Historical Society (Duffy) – The April program “Caring for Your Historic or Older Home” was presented on April 28 by Sally Zimmerman, preservation specialist at Historic New England. Mrs. Meister introduced the speaker, members of the Historical Commission, and other special guests. About 50 homeowners attended the program. On May 26, Mr. Duffy will present an illustrated lecture entitled “Arlington’s Automotive Heyday.”
- Old Schwamb Mill (Duffy) – New exhibit opened on May 2, featuring Arlington photographers Anne Black, Eric Feigenson and Paul Giguere. On May 23 there will be a historic walking tour of the Mount Gilboa/Crescent Hill neighborhood, led by Ed Gordon.
- Arlington Historic Districts Commission (Frisch) – Nothing to report.
- 200th Anniversary Committee (Meister) – Ms. Meister reported that the Selectmen withdrew the warrant article for discussion from Special Town Meeting. The plan is that \$1500.00 of remaining funds will be given to Robbins Library and \$1500.00 to be given to the Ceremonies Account. The remainder will be given to the general fund. This will be discussed at a regular town meeting. The 200th Anniversary Committee will dissolve at the end of town meeting.

Historical Commission FY 2009 Budget – Nothing to report.

Projects Proceeding under Hearings and Approvals:

- 3-5 Brattle Street (Fertman) 4/02 Stange – Nothing report.
- 821 Massachusetts Avenue (Noyes RT) 10/03; modified 4/08 Duffy – Hearing of Redevelopment Board was held and the house has been rescued.
- Symmes Hospital (Town of Arlington) 6/04 Duffy – Nothing to report.
- 21 Appleton Street (Colosimo) 4/08 Robinson – Begun to dig.
- 18 Water Street (Callahan) 7/08 Robinson – Nothing to report.
- 40 Lake Street (Burger/Rosenburg) 9/08 Guthrie – Painter's sign posted.
- 3 Brantwood Road (aka 22 Kensington Park) (Anesse) 9/08 Robinson – Work in progress.
- 43-45 Massachusetts Ave. 7/08 Schaefer – Nothing to report.
- 11-13 Peirce Street Duffy- Nothing to report.
- 71 Walnut Street (Brown) 3/09 Guthrie-Nothing to report.
- 323-329 Broadway (Mazmanian) 4/09 Schaefer- Nothing to report.

Continuing Projects

- Whittemore Robbins House (and outbuildings): Robinson – Floorboards on porch need repair.
- Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson – Event on Civic Block before Town Meeting opened. A Kwanzan Cherry Tree was donated and planted. A quote for repair of 2 stones in Old Burying Ground given by Kevin Duffy. Cemetery Commission to pay for repairs. Library Wall- Capital budget and CDBG to match getting new specifications to remove soil from back of wall. Landscape architects out to bid in summer and work to be done in the fall.
- Inventory Expansion and Review: Duffy, Robinson – Nothing to report.
- Education/Outreach: Duffy/Robinson – Mr. Duffy created a display of vintage photographs for the Community Table in the main lobby at the Robbins Library. A display and handout on the Old Burying Ground project is being developed by Ms. Robinson for installation in that space later this month.
- Historic House Markers: Duffy – One on order for 12 Schouler Court (owner: Jack Carey).
- Town Hall: Duffy – Mr. Duffy to inquire of Patsy Kraemer about the frequent presence of "icicle lights" hanging from gallery in Town Hall auditorium.
- Web Site: Stange – Nothing to report.

Discussion and Hearing

8:00pm Formal Hearing of 51 Smith St. with owner, Sean Lavalla, neighbor, Suzanne Beerman and contractor, Bob Donell.

Property currently has multiple types of siding including pine, cedar and aluminum.

The plan:

- To reside with vinyl siding
- Replace windows
- Replace both doors.
- Soffet repair

- On porch replace railing system

Questions from Commissioners:

- Have you determined what is underneath existing siding? No
- Is there any wood trim? Not much.
- Why on Inventory?

Historical perspective:

- In 1980, when placed on inventory, the property may have had some residual detail that qualified it for being placed on the Inventory.

A motion was made that the house at 51-53 Smith Street be deemed not preferentially preserved by Ms. Meister. Mr. Guthrie seconded the motion. Vote passed with 4 in favor and 1 opposed.

A second motion was made to remove 51-53 Smith Street from the Inventory. All voted in favor.
Hearing closed at 8:29pm.

Informal Hearing

53 Brattle Street with owner, Gary Slebodnick.

Presented plans for 2 story addition.

Ms. Robinson commented on new plans:

- More sympathetic to the house.
- Makes addition that swings around side more visually pleasing.
- Staggered 2nd story is acceptable.

Mr. Slebodnick will return for Formal Hearing at 8 pm on June 2, 2009.
Closed at 9:05pm.

Old Business:

- The Armenian Cultural Foundation –Alan Hovhaness Memorial

The memorial is a ten-ton rock that they want to place in the Whittemore Park. Plan to dedicate on May 17 following concert at Town Hall. Whittemore Park is a National Register site. The Co-Chairs for Arlington Historical Commission have communicated officially and advised that the memorial is being placed at this site without Arlington Historical Commission approval.

New Business:

- Meeting about proposed Mill Brook linear park was held on April 23 and attended by Ms. Robinson and Mr. Duffy. There will be another meeting in June.

Adjourn at 9:33pm

The next Arlington Historical Commission meeting will be June 2, 2009, at 7:45pm

For the Arlington Historical Commission, Victoria Rose, Recording Secretary.